



FILED

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Board Clerk PGCB

July 9, 2019

Cyrus R. Pitre
 Office of Enforcement Counsel
 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
 303 Walnut St, 10th Fl
 Harrisburg, PA 17101
Via email to cpitre@pa.gov

RE: Proposed ramp to I-76 Westbound at 7th St, City of Philadelphia/Stadium Casino LLC

Dear Mr. Pitre:

The Department of Transportation in our role as agent for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to assess the traffic impacts of the proposed Stadium Casino located in the sports complex area in South Philadelphia offers the follow comment with respect to the above noted interstate ramp, currently a requirement of Stadium LLC's gaming license approval.

We have engaged with the City of Philadelphia and the Delaware River Port Authority to discuss and review the feasibility of the proposed WB I-76 on ramp at 7th St. In the fall of 2018, Michael Baker Engineering submitted a Traffic Study which assessed the existing conditions and functionality of constructing a new WB on-ramp to I-76.

Upon our review of the submitted study we find that while some geometric limitations exist that will require design waivers if the ramp moves forward, the overall viability of the new ramp is demonstrated to be beneficial to the local area and specifically to improve management of sporting and other special events that routinely are held in the sports complex area.

Currently, the Department is engaged with the I-95 Section CSP Study which is assessing the overall operations at both the Broad St and Walt Whitman I-95 interchanges. This study is attempting to identify and plan for future improvements that will address the movements, configurations and capacities of the entire multi-interchange area to improve function and safety. This same area of I-76 (immediately west of I-95) is part of this study and will be included in the overall future improvements plan. An additional means of accessing I-76 WB is one of the goals of this study along with other improvements including aiding the Port of Philadelphia and improving the economic viability of the sports complex and Port area. We expect this study to be completed sometime in 2020 and include recommendations for improvements to the interchanges and surface streets to compliment the interchanges.

The Department of Transportation concurs with the City of Philadelphia on the immediate need and benefit this new ramp would provide. It specifically will improve the management of special events and improve traffic operations significantly during these times. Conversely we recognize the challenges both geometrically and legally to its implementation. We understand the Port Authority does not currently favor the addition of this new ramp and will not participate financially in its construction nor maintenance. This presents a challenge to its implementation as this section of I-76 is owned by the Port Authority at the present time. The Department would suggest that if it is determined that the ramp is to move forward that the DRPA may wish to enter into an agreement with Stadium Casino LLC. To fund snow removal, signage and pavement marking up-keep and other maintenance related items. Given the facility would be brand new the maintenance would be minimal. The term could be limited to a certain period of years after which it is likely our project, which will result from the I-95 Section CSP Study, may alter the infrastructure in the area significantly such that this ramp may be eliminated or replaced with another facility. If installed, the ramp may function for a decade or longer till it is superseded by more comprehensive improvements.

If this ramp is supported by the Gaming Commission, PennDOT is willing to continue in our role as coordinating agency on behalf of the Gaming Board while the project moves forward to ensure that it can be safely and effectively designed and constructed.

We hope that we have served the Gaming Board well in the past six years in our capacity as traffic engineer. We will await the outcome of the current licensing hearings and look forward to hearing back from you on the future direction the Board wishes to take in regard to this matter. If you have any questions or require further information please contact Mr. Francis Hanney, Sr Manager-Traffic Services, Engineering District 6-0 at 610-205-6560 or fhanney@pa.gov.

Very Truly Yours,



Kenneth M. McClain
District Executive
PA Dept of Transportation
Engineering District 6-0

cc: Y. Gramian, Ex Dep Secretary of Transportation
L. Bagley, Special Assist to Secretary of Transportation
L. Belmonte, Assist District Executive – Operations
C. Davies, Assist District Executive – Design
F. Hanney, Sr Mgr, Traffic Services Division